



FOR CLERK USE ONLY

City Council

Item No. 15

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

FACT SHEET

Utility Services

Department

May 18, 2010

Requested Date

1. Request:

Council Approval

☐

Information Only/
Presentation

☒

Other (specify)

☐

Hearing

☐

2. Requested Action:

Informational Item - Status Report on New River Improvement Project

3. Fiscal Impact:

Revenue

Increase

☐

Source:

Decrease

☐

Amount:

Cost:

Increase

☐

Source:

Decrease

☐

Amount:

4. Reviewed By:

Finance Dept. on

Comments:

By:

City Attorney on

Comments:

By:

Note: Back up must be submitted along with this form. Deadline is 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, prior to the scheduled meeting date.

CLERK USE ONLY:

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

Action

☐

Consent

☐

Hearing

☐

Filing

☐

Presentation

☐

Other (specify)

☐

Reviewed by: City Clerk

Date

City Manager

Date

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: Informational Item - Status Report on New River Improvement Project

AGENDA DATE: May 18, 2010

PREPARED BY: Luis Estrada, Director of Utility Services



APPROVED FOR AGENDA BY: Victor Carrillo, City Manager

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended the City Council approve the following:

1. Informational item

FISCAL IMPACT: Not applicable

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (Prior action/information)

Assembly Bill 1079 (Chapter 382, Statutes of 2009) authored by Assemblyman Manuel Perez requires the California Mexico Border Relations Council (Border Council) to develop a plan to guide implementation of the New River Improvement Project. As the City Council is aware, the City of Calexico is the recipient of a variety of state and federal appropriations to fund the New River Improvement Project.

Pursuant to the funding guidance and AB 1079, the City will oversee a Project to “study, monitor, remediate and enhance the New River water quality in the County of Imperial to protect human health, and develop a river parkway suitable for public use and enjoyment.” To date, the City has been appropriated approximately \$3.2 million in federal funds (from the 2005 SAFETEA-LU transportation bill), \$800,000 in FY 2009-2010 from the California River Parkways Program, and most recently, \$400,000 in funding from the State Water Resources Control Board.

This informational briefing is to help the City Council understand the current state of all the funding efforts, and in particular to prepare the Council for consideration and adoption of grant agreements for these different funds. The first expected grant agreement that the City will be asked to approve will be with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (SWRCB) for the award of an April 2010 grant of \$400,000 from the California Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Fund.

The SWRCB grant is for a very specific purpose. Before the initiation of an actual “Project” to enhance the condition of the River and to improve public health conditions, AB 1079 requires the completion of a strategic plan. Specifically, the legislation AB 1079 states that “a coordinated and comprehensive state strategy is needed to deal with the residual and projected pollution so that the New River and associated river channel

can be enhanced to a condition that will allow the residents of Calexico and Imperial County to utilize them as recreational and natural assets.”

The grant agreement will provide the City the financial resources necessary to support their role in the development of the strategic plan. It is important to note that the strategic plan is not the work plan or responsibility of the City. AB 1079 requires the California Mexico-Border Relations Council to develop the plan. After thorough discussions with Cal/EPA who oversees and staffs the Council, it was determined that the City should be considered for additional state funding for not just the New River Improvement Project, but for up-front work on the strategic plan.

According to AB 1079, the strategic plan must contain the following elements:

- A. Identification of the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies with a role implementing and achieving the New River Improvement Project.
- B. Quantification of current and projected New River water quality impairments and their threat to public health.
- C. Prioritization of the actions necessary to protect public health and to meet New River water quality objectives and other environmental goals, such as improving the quality of water flows into the Salton Sea.
- D. Identification of potential funds for the implementation of the project, and potential lead agencies that would be responsible for environmental review of activities related to the cleanup and restoration of the New River.

Agenda Item No. _____

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